ISSUE 1 - ROUND 1 - 2024

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Wakefield Trinity v York Knights 1895 Cup Game

V

Introduction

By Richard Whitehead...

Welcome to the first edition of Red White & Blue Army – match day e-magazine.

We decided to continue the work we were doing on the forum with the different content that we were releasing and add it into a readable e-magazine format and hopefully keep Wakefield Trinity supporters entertained throughout the 2024 season. We are following on from Trinity Times last season which played it's part in reaching out to a target audience, but it was always going to struggle with the on the field results not helping the supporter morale to go out and purchase something else that was Trinity related. We worked intensively to support the magazine both with the content that was getting published, autographed copies and a whole host of other ways to try and support the magazine but it never reached the heights that we initially aimed at when releasing it. So to 2024 and the struggles of trying to sell a magazine in and around the ground have been resolved and you can now pick this up on a gameday by simply downloading the content to your mobile device instead. This first edition is free of charge to wet the appetite of the supporter and it will increase to just £1 per copy when we launch fully throughout the season. It will hopefully be available for every game home or away and all the proceeds above our operating costs will go towards our player sponsorship fund for 2024 which we have already announced exciting players in each area who will keep us up to date with all things Trinity in their respective areas throughout the season in this publication.

So what are you getting for your freebie in Edition no 1. We go back to a recent episode of meet the Ex-Players and meet Michael Korkidas who gives us the run down on his time with us at Wakefield. This was an interview that was published on the group prior to Xmas but was one that was really well received that I thought I would add it into here in case anyone missed it. There are plans to reach out to a whole new range of ex-players in 2024 so stay tuned for that. We look forward to the 2024 season from a fans perspective and catch up with Phil Townsend and he gives us his views on the season ahead and what his expectations are from a supporter view. We go behind the scenes and meet up with the Retail and Ticket Office Manager Daz Pitchforth who shares how the merchandise and season ticket sales have gone over the past few months along with his views as a fan of the club as well. Our friends at the Wakefield Trinity Heritage begin their weekly addition to the magazine and you get the full run down on a player in each edition moving forward. This week it's Max Jowitt and you can read all his stats and useful information from his playing career.

Have a safe journey to York if you are making the trip and hopefully we start our 2024 season with a win.

Enjoy the read !

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Trinity v York

This Week's Opposition - York Knights

Whether in the guise as the Wasps, City Knights or just Knights, today's Sundeck's AB 1895 Cup game at York will be our 162nd game with the Minster Men, and our first since 1997. Of those previous 161 games we have won 113, York have won 43 with four draws and one abandoned game. This will also be our 20th cup game with York, Trinity having won 12 and York five and two draws.

The two teams met in the 1936 Yorkshire Cup Final, York winning 9-2, watched by a 19,000 crowd. The last three games between the clubs were Division Two play-off games, and the last game between the two teams, the second of the 1997 play-off games, York winning 13-10. After that 1936 cup final 18,718 watched the 1963 Challenge Cup quarter final replay at Belle Vue, with 13,500 watching the first game at York. These are the largest attendances at our respective stadiums. All but one of the previous 76 away games were at York's Wigginton Road ground with that last play-off game in 1997 played at the Ryedale Stadium.

The Last 30 games

Season / Date				Venue	Competition	Score			Attendar
1967/68	2	Dec	1967	A	League	12	8	Won	1,530
1967/68	27	Jan	1968	H	League	40	15	Won	4,138
1968/69	5	Oct	1968	H	League	29	5	Won	6,072
1968/69	8	Mar	1969	A	League	10	5	Won	3,184
1969/70	27	Aug	1969	H	League	6	10	Lost	3,194
1969/70	28	Mar	1970	A	League	17	12	Won	2,071
1970/71	12	Sept	1970	A	League	46	18	Won	2,182
1970/71	17	Apr	1971	H	League	17	7	Won	3,450
1971/72	27	Aug	1971	H	League	32	3	Won	3,079
1971/72	23	Oct	1971	A	League	17	13	Won	1,659
1972/73	3	Dec	1972	H	League	44	13	Won	3,153
1972/73	4	Feb	1973	A	League	32	14	Won	4,273
1974/75	22	Sept	1974	H	League	39	7	Won	2,395
1974/75	13	Apr	1975	A	League	23	17	Won	4,299
1979/80	4	Nov	1979	H	League	19	8	Won	4,822
1979/80	3	Feb	1980	A	League	20	13	Won	3,885
1981/82	6	Sept	1981	H	League	18	12	Won	3,218
1981/82	21	Mar	1982	A	League	13	11	Won	2,975
1982/83	27	Dec	1982	H	League	20	12	Won	2,818
1982/83	4	Apr	1983	A	League	19	9	Won	2,023
1983/84	26	Feb	1984	H	RLCC Rd2	12	20	Lost	3,276
1984/85	11	Nov	1984	H	League	8	12	Lost	1,832
1984/85	14	Apr	1985	A	League	18	44	Lost	2,180
1987/88	15	Nov	1987	H	JPS Rd1	22	22	Draw	1,864
1987/88	18	Nov	1987	A	John Player Rd1 rep	30	6	Won	1,467
1987/88	1	Apr	1988	H	League	34	11	Won	2,260
1987/88	4	Apr	1988	A	League	8	17	Lost	2,253
1987/88	24	Apr	1988	H	2nd Div Premiership Rd1	44	23	Won	2,046
1997	10	Aug	1997	H	Div Premiership Play-Off	34	26	Won	838
1997	31	Aug	1997	A	Div Premiership Play-Off	10	13	Lost	633

Meet the Heroes...

AN INTERVIEW WITH MICHAEL KORKIDAS...

We will be using this platform to release some new interviews with the former players of Wakefield Trinity. For this edition though, we are going to look back on that we released on the group a few months back. It's another instalment of Meet The Ex-Players and what a player we have for you this time around. We get to meet KORKI !!!

Michael Korkidas, is highly regarded as a legend of Trin by a lot of the supporters and appears in many a supporters Trinity Dream Team. Here Korki gives us all an in depth look at his time at Wakefield and England. He gives us his highs and lows as a player at Wakefield and his time with other clubs before his return to Trinity. He also gives us a great analysis and review of the famous Hull playoff game that he starred in and that "run" at the beginning of the second half that set the platform for the comeback. A massive thanks to Michael for taking the time to complete the interview. Often seen round Westgate, enjoying his time away from the game. Korki became one of those players that you just had to love. So, grab a drink (maybe even a beer in respect of his time round Westgate), sit back and ultimately, enjoy the read!!

Let's start with Michael Korkidas the player. Tell us about your junior days in Australia and why you played Rugby League ?

My first taste of rugby league was at primary school as a 11 year old. A good friend of mine, asked me to come and have a run in the centres, because I was fast in those days. I had to keep it a secret from my parents, so they wouldn't find out. They preferred soccer or as in England it's called Football. To them rugby league was a thugs game, not for their son ,especially coming from a European background, soccer was the choice for the kids at that time in the family.

But I fell in love with the game from my first appearance! It was for me. I then went on to play for my local amateur club called Taren Point Seagulls at that time. I was a centre and got asked to try out for Cronulla Mathews Cup under 15's , which I couldn't believe I made it in. I was there for 2 years, then got picked up by St George Dragons as a 17 year old. That year was special because I made the Australian School Boys team which was a big thing for me as a teenager. From that tournament the Great Arthur Beetson spotted me and liked what he saw and got me to sign up for the Sydney Roosters.

How did the move to Wakefield come about ?

My taste of 1st grade was at 20 years old under Graham Murray, I played 7 games and by getting the taste of it, made me more hungry for more the following year. Roosters brought in Ricky Stuart, which to this day I didn't know why he just didn't seem to give me the time or day.
I needed a fresh start and to re focus on my abilities as a footy player. Wakefield made an offer through my manager and I jumped at it. I had something to prove Definitely!

Can you remember your Wakefield 1st team debut, who it was against and how it went ?

My debut, if you can call it that Hahahahah. As I remember was a boxing day game against Featherstone, a beautiful Yorkshire winters day. Pretty tough game. I think I was trying to set my mark early on my style of play and to try lead from the front ! which I enjoyed, especially the passion from the supporters and the atmosphere was fantastic!

The Super League journey was far from easy. Can you give us some highs and lows of your time at Trinity ?

I was blessed enough to play all those years, and there are always going to be highs and lows, part of life I guess. Highs was definitely my first 4 years at Wakefield, the play off against Hull was one of the best experiences in my career and those fans behind the posts, no one can forget them !

Fighting for relegation is always a battle especially mentally, and no player wants to be part of that strain and anxiety of not knowing if the club is going down or up. I went through that a few times but luckily enough we got through it. Returning back to Wakefield in 2009 was a massive High, especially coming from 2 and a half years of feeling a bit Lost. But for me definitely more Highs than the lows.

We had plenty of coaches during your era as well. Was there any coach in particular that you bonded or got on better than the others with ?

Coaches, I firstly would have to say Shane Mcnally, he had faith in me and gave me the opportunity to come to Wakefield, he was a good coach and great bloke , taught me a lot. Secondly Johnny Kea , from when he first came in mid 2006, he was inspirational and a coach I wanted to play for. He then brang me back in 2009, he had belief in me and knew what I could bring to the team.

If you ask any supporter about Michael Korkidas, the main memory is "that run from the kick off" against Hull FC in the elimination playoffs. That was one crazy game and one crazy ride as a supporter. What are your best memories of that game and run which ended so cruelly at Wigan ?

The playoff game against Hull, like I mentioned before was a huge highlight of my career. What a game that was, it was fast, intense and physical all in one. I tell others that ask me, in the changing rooms before the game that evening, the intensity you could pretty much smell in the air. We all had that look in our eyes!
I knew we would win, no matter who we played that day. The second half came, Shane told us to just continue with what we were doing, we got crucified with penalties and sin bins the 1st half, it was bound to turn in our favour. From me personally, I just concentrated on my job. I had to have a positive impact from the whistle to Lead from the front to get us on the front foot. I think it was Gaz Ellis who received the ball and tipped it onto to me. I arced my run towards the middle skipping past a few then cut through the middle, I felt like a rabbit in headlights, so my first instinct was to just run hard and make as many meters as I could. When the full time whistle went, was a feeling which is hard to explain, turning back and applauding the Trinity supporters who's chanting was shaking the ground!! Was a once in a lifetime experience.
The rest is History as you know it !

I've done similar interviews with Trinity supporters and asked them to name their favourite ever team. You have proven to be one of the most popular selections for the team. How does it feel to know you made such a positive impact in your time here ?

To be known as one the popular players of that era is a huge honour. I still can't believe I had that kind of influence on the club and its supporters. Especially at that era we had some superstars and big international players that played for the club. So to get a mention amongst them is huge.

You left, joined the enemy (Castleford) and a few other clubs and then came back in 2009. How did things go for you during your time away from the club and then eventually returning ?

During the year of 2006, I was at the club for 4 years, I had a long think about what I wanted to do. The club at that time had a few issues with the board, money etc. It took its toll on a few of us I think at that time. I made the decision to go, Salford Reds made an offer which was hard to refuse.

Johnny Kear came in to get us out of the mess to stay up. I automatically got on with John and Paul Broadbent, I had their respect and they had mine. So looking back now, if they both came in earlier, I probably

would have stayed at Wakey. Was just one of those things that a made a decision and moved on. So I moved over the Pennines to sunny Manchester. Was very different to Wakefield, I was comfortable at Wakefield I knew all the boys and their families etc...

So had to start fresh, took I while to get use to the change but got there. Even though we came last that year in 2007, personally I had a good season, I picked up the fans player of the year award which was special. But I wanted to play Superleague and Salford were getting ready for playing Division 1. Castleford came to the rescue with a two year contract. Once again I found it different, from the players to the board and supporters. I started off well but as the season went on wasn't playing my best, my confidence was low and me and Terry Matterson didn't get along. I never had a problem with any coach so I didn't know how to deal with it all. I asked for a release, and moved to Huddersfield under Nathan Brown. I knew I had to prove myself again, there were other front rowers in front of me so was going to be tough. I got stuck into training and just had to wait for my opportunity to come. Got a few games in but Browne's coaching was very different, I couldn't get use to it, and he had his props already that suited his style of coaching. I didn't think I got given a good opportunity to show what I could do, I was frustrated and it was taking its toll, especially having to play reserve grade.

I think it was mid year 2009, I was playing for Huddersfield reserves against Wakefield at Belle Vue. John must of been sitting up in the box watching the game, after the game finished I was walking off the field and I got a pat on the back, it was Johnny Kear asking me what the hell are you doing playing reserves? I just shrugged my shoulders and said don't know John. He said I will be in touch, in a matter of a few days a deal was done, I'm pretty sure JD had a bit to do with it as well. Was a breath of fresh air after nearly 3 years of battling to play constantly at Superleague. I really enjoyed coming back, we had a good team and lucky enough to make the play off's that year.

You joined Jason Demetriou at Keighley to finish your career in the UK. How did that reunion / linkup go for you two ?

So my time at Wakefield and career at top grade was slowly coming to an end. I was originally going to finish up and come back home, when I got a call from JD asking me if I would like to have a run at Keighley, had a good think about it. So I said why not, they got me a job doing social work plus playing, which was a big eye opener and challenging experience. To see the boys there coming from a hard day's work to then rip into training then play on weekends was humbling.
Adjusting from having JD as a team mate to a coach took some getting use to but I adapted. I had so much respect for them, they just loved playing footy, and to see JD progress as a coach from then to where he is now just shows his commitment and drive for being a top coach.

Greece entered international rugby league in 2013 and you were lucky enough to both play and captain your country. Give us a on your emotions to play and lead your country out ?

Greek rugby league, it has definitely evolved into something special, especially with a decent domestic competition running in Greece for a few years now. I got the first call in mid 2003, Steve Georgallis rang me to ask if I was interested in playing for a Greek team ? I sought of giggled thinking no way, he's kidding! But it was serious, unfortunately due to travel commitments with my family I couldn't play. The next opportunity came in 2005, we were going to play Malta in Sydney as a one off game. Even more exciting I was made Captain of the team. Was a huge honour, not just for me but for my parents who were migrants from Greece and came to Sydney, also for my grandparents and ancestors. That's how I saw it, all my family came to watch, unfortunately we lost with 1min remaining but I was blessed enough to also get Man of the Match! Was a game I would cherish, there was no money playing for Greece it's for the passion and respect we have for our heritage and the jersey we wore. To also captain the team all those times was a big thing for me and my family. Unfortunately I was too old to have a run last year in the world cup Hahahahah ! Was a big achievement though, a dream come true, a lot have heard about the set backs, politics and funding

which was going on all those years to get to where it is now. To watch the boys run out for the 1st time in a rugby league world cup was very emotional! Steve and everyone involved have worked so hard through it all, and came through the other side.So to have played a small part of that dream was a huge honour.

And from your 20 career tries, do you have a favourite one that stood out ?

20 tries, wow didn't even know I scored that many Hahahahah
One that stood out I'll have to say was against Huddersfield in 2004, I think I got the ball by mistake, and burst through about 40 meters out, and probably one against Wigan in 2006 at Belle Vue, nothing flash but was a good team performance and to score against them and at home was special.

Let's finish with a chance to reflect on the players you played with in your career. Give us your dream team 1-13 of players that you played with ?

Tough picking my best, Here we go!

1.Anthony Minichello
2.Semi Tadulala
3.Sid Domic
4.Gareth Ellis
5.Damien Blanch
6.Ben Jeffries
7.Sam Obst
8.Quentin Pongia
9.David March
10.Olivia Elima
11.David Solomona
12.Craig Fitzgibbon
13.Jason Demetriou

And from that team, who would captain it and why ?

The captain would have to be JD, even though there is a lot of leaders in this team but JD definitely. Playing alongside him over the years and the other boys would definitely agree on what he brings on and off the field.

Before I go, I have to ask. Where does a night out in Westgate, Wakefield compare to any other in the world ?

A night out on Westgate is the number one for me Hahahahah don't know how it is now. But during my time we had some great nights out with champion blokes.

And to end with, anything you would like to add to the Wakefield fans out there ?

To all the Wakefield fans, I firstly would want to say a huge thankyou. Making me feel welcomed when first arrived and taking me in from day one. The club holds a massive piece in my heart and to have played a small part in the clubs history is a huge honour. I have friends for life from playing for Wakey from ex team mates to fans, so it's a thing I cherish. I wish the club all the best for the future, to bigger and better things.

Regards Korki

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A Fans View...

This highly active supporters group has over 2,900 ACTIVE MEMBERS on Facebook!!!

By Phil Townsend...

We last spoke for Part 2 of your interviews at the end of September. A lot has happened on and off the field since then. We will look at certain areas in more detail but let's start with supporter morale. We've all had a huge pick me up after the disappointment of relegation last season. How's morale in the Townsend household now ?

It's very good indeed. The progress on and off the pitch is incredible and I have to pinch myself that this is still my club!

The season is on the verge of starting and we kick off with a confusing format in the 1895 cup. How do you feel this competition ranks in the priority for the 2024 season?

The format has been designed to assist with the League one clubs who feel cut adrift, which I understand but, with the challenge cup having now been drawn, it seems we have only 1 decent match between now and15th March, which isn't good for us as a club. Of course getting to Wembley would be great (especially as I have tickets courtesy of one of the Bonus Ball draws on the Red White & Blue Army Group), and there are IMG points up for grabs, but I'd rather be looking at decent league games tbh.

We start off with a trip to York in a few weeks and will come face to face with Will Dagger so soon after his departure from Wakefield. We're you sad to see Will go and what about the other players that left. Who do you feel we will miss next season if any ?

I think Will is a great player with a huge amount of talent, and I would have liked him at Wakefield now, but I don't think he's right for SL and I hope he can have a great career at this level

We've recruited a lot of new faces for next season. Are you happy with our on the field business for 2024 and which player are you most looking forward to donning the Red, White & Blue next season ?

Superb! Quality additions in Thornley, McGilvary and Walmsley (who was superb at FB on Friday). But the smart stuff is in these young forwards who we have taken from the lower leagues and hopefully shone a light on them. The way the game is now (and especially in the Championship) it is very physical. I think the idea that a prop doesn't mature until 26 or 27 is not true any more and that between 22 and 25 are some massive years for forward players. I am really hopeful that some of these players are going to play a part not just for 2024 but beyond in Super League!

Daryl Powell has built a really strong off the field team. What are your thoughts of his coaching setup with Shenton and Kirmond joining him for the upcoming season ?

I can't fault any of the appointments, but the one I would pick out would be Shenton. I'll put money on him being our first team coach in a few years – allowing Powell to be Director of Rugby. The guy comes across as very smart, very organised and motivated.

And we now have a structure with performance analysts, strength and conditioning and a recruitment manager as well looking after all areas off the field. Was this something we lacked last season or have we just rebuilt with some new faces to change things up here ?

We are so much better equipped now than we were 12 months ago. I don't blame Mash – goodness knows how hard it must have been in those circumstances but he did it, but now we just appear so much more professional across the board. The phrase I refer to is that last year we were a Championship club playing Super League but we are now a Super League club playing in the Championship.

You said in your previous interview not to jump the gun and expect to win everything in 2024. What do you feel are overall targets are as a club for the season ?

I don't subscribe to the idea of going unbeaten. I think we are good and we have recruited well, but I look around and can see some threats from Bradford, Toulouse, York and Featherstone in particular. That said, with us being

full-time, I think we have to aim to finish first in the league and get to the final. Once we are there though we may need to be even stronger than we are now as I don't believe the other clubs will stand still!

Let's look off the field. The new stand is finally here and the hospitality suite is open too. Have you had chance to sample this or have a look around the stand as a whole ? How do you feel this will benefit us commercially in 2024 and the future ?

The Wigan statement that came out today said it all – there will be a perception change about the club. From being the scrappers making up the numbers to a genuine power in RL – yes, a building can be that influential! Commercially, yes it will improve matters, but not to the effect that Matt Ellis is already changing them, however without this new stand there wouldn't be a Matt Ellis IMO.

I haven't had chance to look around yet, but I have tickets to Corporate for the York game (another winner from one of the Bonus Ball draws), so I'm saving it for then!

Season ticket sales have gone mad !! What do you feel has made the supporters get back on board with such a positive mind frame ?

Belief! Genuine belief that this is real! We have had false dawns, broken promises and abject failures, but there is feeling that this IS our time, this IS real and we can really do this. The stand being completed, the plans for elsewhere in the Stadium, the coaching staff, the players, it all adds up to a package beyond anything most have seen in their lives at BV. I am old enough to have been to Wembley in '79, but even then the joy was short lived as it wasn't long before we were selling Skerrett, Topliss and more – now we don't have to. It's fragile though – there is a long way to go yet and it's good to hear that Matt is in it for the long haul!

Which area of the ground will we see you in next season and why ?

The Lower North Stand. We have been in there for a few years now, having been moved from our original spot under the tea bar, and we love it there. We are close to the action and close enough to the 'Lads at the Back' to get some atmosphere. We were Commit 6 members, which should have got us seats in the Neil Fox stand, but we are not ready to move – yet!

A load of new merchandise as well and some new shirts for the season. What do you think of the new ranges and how much have you added to your wardrobe ?

Let me put it this way – I've never spent as much in the club shop! Daz was gobsmacked when I went in 4 weeks running, but the gear is smart and well priced. I'm just loving it and my gilet is in constant use!

Let's look at the ground as a whole. It's clear it has to be a long term aim here but what improvements would you like to see moving forward if we have the funds to do so ?

I am aware that Matt has plans for just about everywhere, and I'm not precious about the order it gets done, so long as it's getting done. This will hopefully give the club the foundation for many years to come, so a quick fix is not the order of the day. For the fans we just want good access, easy food and drink and decent bogs – with lights and running water (loo roll can be helpful too) – beyond that everything else is a bonus!

You were critical of our media over the festive period although I think some supporters got the wrong end of the stick with your views. Would you like to elaborate on this and what you were looking for as an improvement in this area ?

I was a bit impatient I think and I think there were changes happening behind the scenes, but my point is that supporters don't stop supporting for Christmas – in fact they have time and pocket money to spend – so our media dept have got to factor this period and plan for it going forward. Some folk jumped on me for being negative, but my point was aiming to be positive as I just want the club to be the very best version of what it can be!

Before we finish we have to ask about IMG. How does the club look overall regarding the IMG criteria and the future and do you feel the future is positive in this area ?

Are we the luckiest club that ever existed? 5 last day finishes – all won. Then we are about to get kicked out under the franchises and Crusaders drop out. Then when we do finally get relegated it happens when we have built a fantastic new stand which pretty much nails our place in SL (along with Matt Ellis' influence). It's all in our control – we can add the advertising hoardings, we can add finance, we can build a great team – all of which

should result in our comfortably being inside the top 12 clubs.

And finally, again... anything you would like to add that I have missed off ?

I believe! And it's not just me is it? People I talk regularly to and those who stand around me at the games – some of them would not be coming to BV this year had we not changed ownership, but we have. I am not in that group – I would have been there, but maybe not at away games. The whole thing had become a drag – no fun to be had (or not much anyway), but I don't blame the previous owners, I actually think they did amazing things with what we had but that it was time to move in a new direction – one that wouldn't have been possible without John and Michael. So lets stop the bitching and sniping and be grateful for where we are, for what is happening at our club and let's have some fun!

Up The Trin !!
Phil !!

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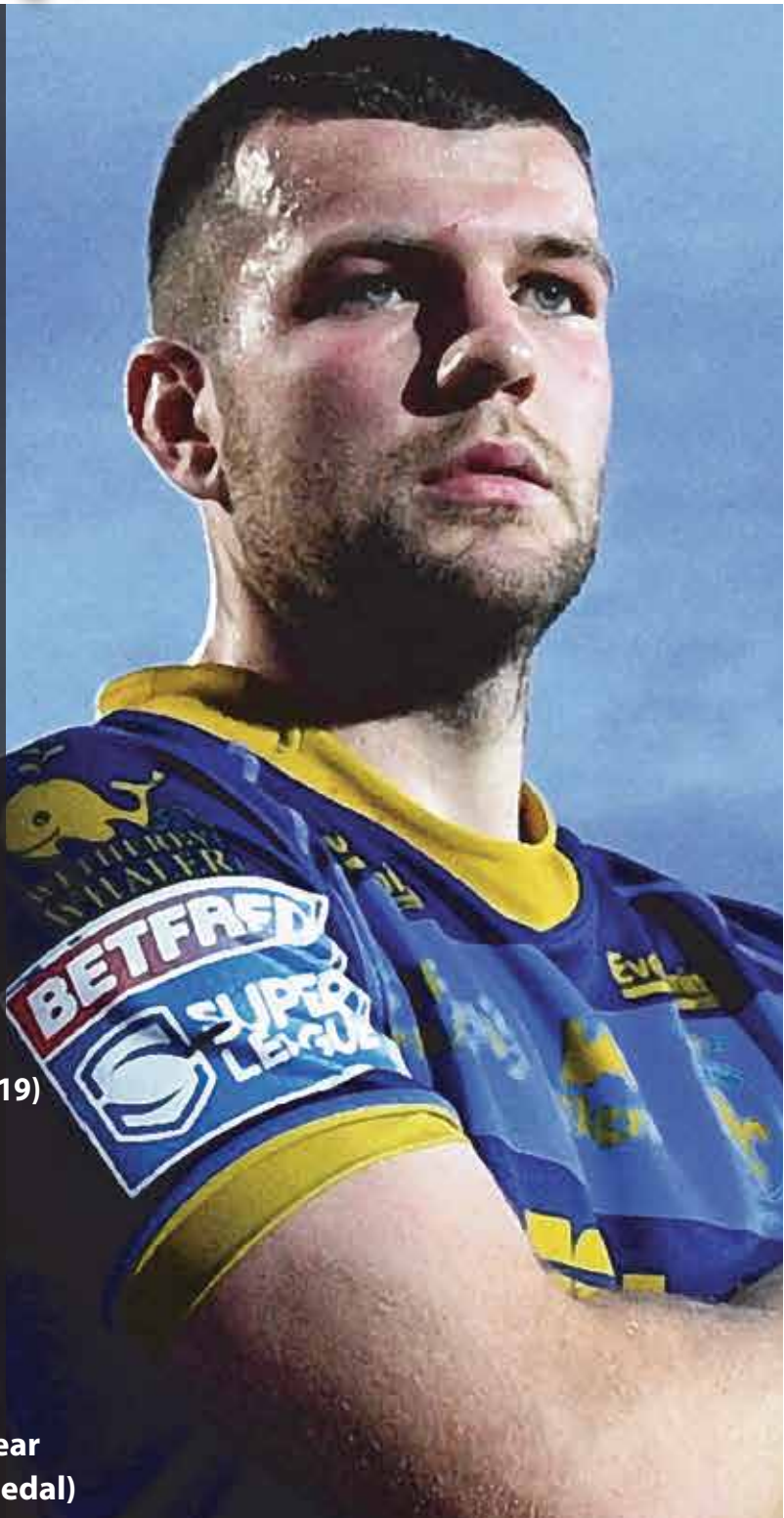
Meet the 2024 Trinity Squad...

No.1 Max Jowitt



Born	6th May 1997
Age	26
2024 Squad Number	1
Junior Club	Stanley Rangers
Position	Full Back
When signed	January 2014
Debut	St. Helens (A) 15th August 2014
Games Played	117
Tries Scored	35
Goals Kicked	34
Points Scored	208
Club Honours (whilst at Trinity)	None
Representative Honours (whilst at Trinity)	England Youth (U16s) 2012 England Academy (U19s) 2015
Heritage Number	1346
Other Clubs Played	Dewsbury Rams (2017) Oxford (2017) Newcastle Thunder (2019)
All dual registration Club Honours (other than Trinity)	None
Representative Honours (other than Trinity)	None
Full Career Statistics	122 games, 38 tries, 39 goals, 230 points
Individual Honours	Young Player of the Year (Albert Goldthorpe Medal)

Of note - Max's father, Ian played 41 games for Trinity (1985-90) ◆ At 17 years and three months, he was 16th youngest every player to debut for Trinity (2014), and second ever youngest full back. ◆ In 2014 was voted as Coach's Academy Player of the Year ◆ In 2015 played for England Academy in France, losing 34-33 in Carcassonne ◆ Won the Albert Goldthorpe medal for Young Player of the Year in 2016 from League Express newspaper ◆He was selected for England Knights Performance squad in 2018

Max Jowitt statistics I					
Season	Team	Played	Tries	Goals	Points
2014	Wakefield Trinity	1	0	0	0
2015	Wakefield Trinity	3	1	0	4
2016	Wakefield Trinity	24	6	0	24
2017	Dewsbury Rams	2	0	0	0
	Oxford	2	1	5	14
	Wakefield Trinity	3	1	0	4
2018	Wakefield Trinity	15	2	0	8
2019	Newcastle Thunder	1	2	0	8
	Wakefield Trinity	11	7	0	28
2020	Wakefield Trinity	14	6	7	38
2021	Wakefield Trinity	14	1	0	4
2022	Wakefield Trinity	17	7	22	72
2023	Wakefield Trinity	15	4	5	26
		122	**38**	**39**	**230**

Max Jowitt statistics II					
Season	Team	Played	Tries	Goals	Points
2014-	Wakefield Trinity	117	35	34	208
2017	Dewsbury Rams	2	0	0	0
2017	Oxford	2	1	5	14
2019	Newcastle Thunder	1	2	0	8
	TOTAL	**122**	**38**	**39**	**230**

WANT TO ADVERTISE ON HERE? PLEASE CONTACT RICHARD AT

wildcatarmy@aol.com

Club Connection...

Retail Manager – Darren Pitchforth
darren.pitchforth@wakefieldtrinity.com

An interview with Richard Whitehead...

We last spoke at the back end of September as the 2023 season came to a close. It's been an interesting few months for all supporters since the takeover was confirmed. How have things been in the club shop over the past few months ?

Everything has changed massively, it's been so busy. The fans have been amazing coming back in droves, didn't expect anywhere near as many season tickets to be sold. The merch has been flying out of the store, new ranges due in shortly. Record sales for the home jersey. It's great to see everyone coming in to store so happy and buzzing for the new season.

Let's look at a few areas in more detail. Season ticket sales seem to have exceeded expectations. Can you give us any information or figures on the number that have been sold overall please ? And if you can, what about each section of the ground individually and how numbers have gone ?

Season tickets have gone way beyond our expectations, we are well over 5000 now with daily sales still coming through. North is obviously at capacity for the minute. West filling up nicely with almost 1000 in there already. Neil Fox stand is around 80% full , still time to grab a seat.

There has been plenty of speculation regarding the North Stand and how the upper and lower sections will work in 2024. Can you share the plans with supporters ?

North stand is now as one, anyone entering the upper will be given a wrist band so we can count the amount of supporters entering as there will be a set capacity for safety reasons. There are plans for some more work to be done which could lift the capacity and maybe allow some matchday tickets to be sold (not sure when).

What's the plans for Away supporters in 2024 and where will they be in the ground ?

The away supporters will be in the Neil fox Stand Block E01.

What about matchday sales. Can supporters still buy a ticket on the day from the ground for each area ?

Yes, tickets will still be available on match day either online or at the ticket office. Pre bought tickets really help take the pressure off game day. If sales continue the way they are we could be sold out for every game this season.

Let's delve into Merchandise and we will start with the home and away shirts. How did sales go on these and was there an overall winner of the two in terms of sales ?

Home jersey has sold more than any another jersey we have had, almost 2000 sold. Away has gone well but nowhere near the home sales.

What's your favourite out of the two shirts ?

Home.

How has the rest of the merchandise gone ? Has there been any specific item that the fans have snapped up ?

The black and cyan range has gone really well, sold out of most items. Sales are way up due to the extra 3500 fans .

Is there another new merchandise range on the horizon and any chance of a sneak preview of what's to come ?

A new range has landed and is just been finished off , expecting it in store week commencing the 11th. Also a new retro range will be here shortly as well.

Let's move to the playing side of things and your thoughts as a supporter. Have you been impressed with the signings that we have brought in so far and is there anyone in particular that you are looking forward to seeing next season ?

Loving the new signings, young players fighting to show what they can do instead of players that have won/done it all and won't go the extra mile for the badge.

Myles Lawford, looks like we've signed a gem. Looking forward to seeing Vagana play.

What's your predictions on the season ahead ? Can we win the Championship and will we get a day out at Wembley this season ?

Yes , I'm expecting us to win the championship.

Wembley…… already booked my hotel. I've never been to Wembley, always said I'll wait till we get there, jeez it's been a long wait.

Can't even imagine how many fans we would take..

Is there any fixture that you are looking forward to more than any other next season ?

Bulls at home, few ex players coming back and just with it been the first game. Looking forward to the whole season for the first time in ages.

We lost a lot of players in the off season as well with the relegation clauses of a lot of players. Is there any specific player that you were sad to see go ?

Wish Kelepi would have stayed, I think he will smash it at KR this season, but players come and go , everyone can be replaced.

A lot of off the field changes as well with changes in the staffing behind the scenes. Has your role or responsibilities changed in any way from Monday to Saturday or on a matchday ?

No ,my role has stayed the same apart from the work load has trebled , all for the good though.

Quick shout out to the Daz Williams, Nita, Tina, Amy for all their had work they've put in recently in store or ticket office.

And finally, as always... a chance for you to add anything at the end that you would like to put there to the supporters that I may have missed ?

Hope everyone is looking forward to the season as much as I am, lets get behind the team home and away and enjoy the ride, and maybe I might just get to see my lifetime ambition of watching us walk out at Wembley….

Thanks to you all for your support . #trinityrising

Darren Pitchforth

Retail & Ticket Office Manager

Wakefield Trinity R.L.F.C

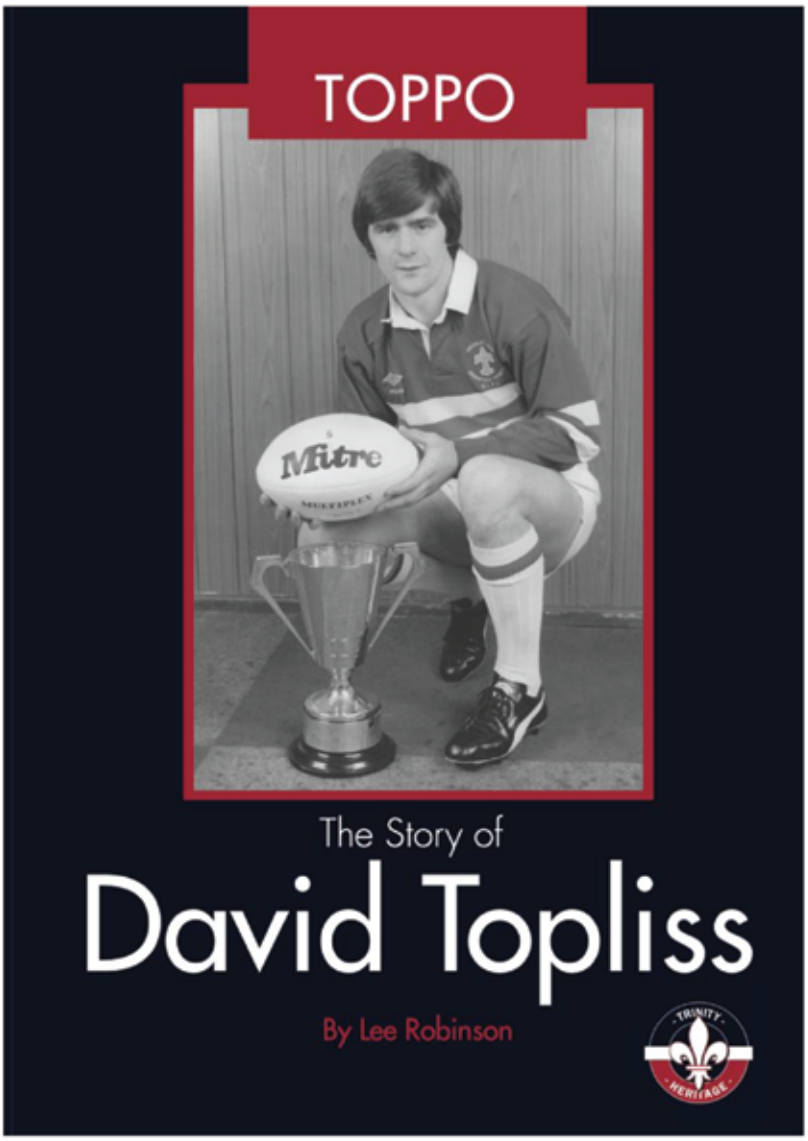
SHOP ON-LINE AT
www.newshop.wakefieldtrinity.com
OR VISIT
Ridings Shopping Centre Wakefield - TEL: 01924 211611

WEAR THE BADGE WITH PRIDE

TRINITY HERITAGE BOOK

'Toppo'
The David Topliss Story

David Topliss is a Wakefield Trinity legend, having played for the rugby league club for 13 years. He returned to coach the team in his later years, after gaining the trophies and medals he so richly deserved at Hull FC. He is one of the few men to have played on the junior playing fields in the Wakefield district and progressed to Wembley and the international Test arena of Sydney in Australia. He signed for Trinity in 1968, progressing to over 400 appearances in the 'red, white and blue', winning the Lance Todd Trophy at Wembley in 1979. After moving to Hull, he won four trophies including the hallowed Rugby League Challenge Cup on a memorable night in 1982. His Rugby League CV also features time at Penrith Panthers and Balmain Tigers in the Australian Premiership, Oldham and Yorkshire, England under-19s, England and Great Britain representative honours. He is also a member of the Wakefield Trinity and Hull FC Halls of Fame. His professional Rugby League career lasted 26 years and includes 647 first class games…



… this is 'Toppo's story,

written by Lee Robinson
of Trinity Heritage

On sale now. £15
Contact Lee on…
trinity-heritage@sky.com

TRINITY BIG QUIZ!

PICTURE & GENERAL ROUND

NAME THE EX-TRINITY PLAYERS BELOW

1

2

3

4

5

6

7: Which NRLclub did David Fifita debut for in 2014?

8: The Rugby League Challenge Cup was first contested in what year?

9: Where did Hull FC play their home games before they moved to the KC Stadium in 2003?

10: Who contested the old 'War of the Roses' series?

11: Which NRL club has the Trinity starlett Lewis Murphy signed for in 2024?

12: In 1873 Wakefield Trinity was formed alongside Wakefield Trinity Cycling and Athletic Club. What is the athletics club now called?

13: Name this old RL ground?

SCORES: Less than 4, you're a Cas fan at the wrong game
5-7, could do better **- 7-10,** good effort **- 10-13,** you need to get out more.

SEE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR ANSWERS AT THE END OF THE MATCH

WANT TO ADVERTISE ON HERE? PLEASE CONTACT RICHARD AT

wildcatarmy@aol.com

ADVANCED TEAM SHEET

	TRINITY		YORK
1	Max Jowitt	12	Connor Bailey
2	Jermaine McGillvray	2	Joe Brown
3	Oliver Pratt	31	Francis Coggle
4	Iain Thornley	11	Oli Field
5	Lachlan Walmsley	10	Conor Fitzsimmons
6	Luke Gale	7	Liam Harris
7	Mason Lino	N/A	Myles Harrison
8	Josh Bowden	9	Will Jubb
9	Liam Hood	4	Jimmy Keinhorst
10	Renouf Atoni	20	Taylor Pemberton
11	Matty Ashurst	27	Harry Price
12	Josh Griffin	30	Harvey Reynolds
13	Jay Pitts	16	Brenden Santi
15	Caleb Uele	N/A	Charlie Severs
16	Mathieu Cozza	8	Ukuma Ta'ai
19	Isaiah Vagana	15	Jack Teanby
20	Toby Boothroyd	13	Jordan Thompson
21	Thomas Doyle	N/A	AJ Towses
22	Jack Croft	28	Brad Ward
23	Romain Franco	14	Nikau Williams
22	Myles Lawford		

NEXT HOME GAME

WAKEFIELD TRINITY v BRADFORD BULLS

FRIDAY 15th of MARCH

KICK OFF 8-00 PM

RESERVE FIXTURES

Sun	28	Jan	Batley Bulldogs	Friendly (A)
Fri	17	Feb	Hull Kingston Rovers	Friendly (A)
Sat	23	Mar	Warrington Wolves	League (A)
Sat	6	Apr	St. Helens	League (A)
Sat	20	Apr	Huddersfield Giants	League (A)
Sat	4	May	Salford Red Devils	League (A)
Sun	19	May	Hull Kingston Rovers	League (H)*
Fri	31	May	Hull FC	League (H)*
Sat	15	Jun	Castleford Tigers	League (A)
Sat	29	Jul	London Broncos	League (H)
Sat	13	Jul	Bradford Bulls	League (A)
Sun	28	Jul	Wigan Warriors	League (H)*
Sun	9	Aug	Leigh Centurions	League (H)*
Sat	24	Aug	Leeds Rhinos	League (A)

* All curtain raisers to first team matches

ACADEMY FIXTURES

Fri	9	Feb	Bradford Bulls	Friendly (A)
Sat	16	Mar	Bradford Bulls	League (H)
Sat	30	Mar	Huddersfield Giants	League (H)
Sun	14	Apr	Castleford Tigers	League (H)**
Sun	27	Apr	Warrington Wolves	League (H)*
Sat	11	May	Leeds Rhinos	League (A)
Sat	25	May	Hull Kingston Rovers	League (A)
Sat	22	Jun	Wigan Warriors	League (A)
Sun	7	Jul	Hull FC	League (H)*
Sat	20	Jul	Huddersfield Giants	League (A)
Sat	10	Aug	Leeds Rhinos	League (H)
Sat	18	Aug	Bradford Bulls	League (A)
Sat	31	Aug	St. Helens	League (A)

* All curtain raisers to first team matches - ** To be played after first team match

WAKEFIELD TRINITY HERITAGE PODCAST

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Player interviews, Top Tens, Club History, and much more...

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